

# COMMERCIAL PHOTOGRAPHY

## GLOSSARY OF TERMS

### ACETIC ACID: (STOP)

The chemical used in stop bath to halt development and neutralize the developer. A 2 percent solution is generally used with negatives and prints. It is also called glacial acetic acid.

### AGITATION:

The rocking motion used during processing to keep fresh chemicals in contact with the film.

### ANGLE OF VIEW:

The largest angle of light rays passing through the lens that will form an image of acceptable quality on the film.

### APERTURE:

The opening in the camera lens that regulates the amount of light reaching the film. The aperture may be fixed in size or adjusted by a diaphragm.

### BELLOWS:

Light-tight folding sleeve used to join the lens to the camera body. Also included in an enlarger. One type is used on large format cameras, providing adjustable lens-to-image distances. A second type is used for macro-photography.

### BOUNCE FLASH:

The aiming of a flash unit at a wall or ceiling to reflect light onto a subject. This avoids harsh shadows that result from pointing the flash directly at the subject.

### BURNING-IN:

A technique used in printing to add more exposure to a shall area of the print.

### CAMERA:

A photographic device in which film can be exposed to yield a photograph.

### CASSETTE:

A metal or plastic container for 35 mm film. Film is loaded off a bulk roll.

### CLOSE-UP:

The area of photography recording subjects 1/10 life-size to life-size. Common subjects include flowers, stamps, and coins.

### COMPOSITION:

The intentional arrangement of different elements in the set-up of a photograph.

**CONTACT PRINT:**

An actual-size print of a negative. It is made by placing the negative on the photographic paper and exposing it to light.

**CONTACT PRINTER:**

A device used to make contact prints. Aids alignment of negatives on top of photographic paper.

**CONTRAST:**

The visual difference in density (blackness) between the light and dark areas on a print or negative.

**CROPPING:**

The elimination of undesirable areas while printing.

**DARKROOM:**

A special room sealed off from light. This light-tight area is used to load exposed film or print photographs.

**DENSITY:**

The amount of silver left on film after exposure and development.

**DEPTH OF FIELD:**

The range of distance in which everything appears in sharp focus.

**DEVELOPER:**

A chemical that causes light-struck silver particles to form a visible image.

**DEVELOPING TANK:**

A light-tight container that holds film and solutions during processing. A light baffle allows the addition and removal of chemicals and water during development.

**DILUTION:**

The watering down of a chemical to a desired concentration (mixture).

**DODGING:**

A technique used while printing. It is a method of holding back light from certain areas during exposure.

**DRY MOUNTING TISSUE:**

A heat sensitive material that binds a print to a mounting board.

**EASEL:**

A device for holding a sheet of photographic paper under the enlarger while printing.

**ELECTRONIC FLASH:**

A light source produced by a high-voltage discharge in a gas filled tube. The tube can produce thousands of flashes. It is also called a strobe.

**EMULSION:**

The light-sensitive layer of photographic material. It consists of silver halide crystals suspended in gelatin.

**ENLARGEMENT:**

A print that is larger than the original image on the film.

**ENLARGER:**

An optical device used to make an enlargement. It has adjustable focus and height adjustment to make various sizes of prints.

**EXPOSED FILM:**

Film that has been struck by light and has a latent image formed on it.

**FILL-IN-FLASH:**

Additional light by electronic flash or flashbulb to supplement natural light. Dark shadow areas will be lightened.

**FILM:**

A transparent, flexible base of cellulose coated with a light-sensitized emulsion.

**FILTERS:**

Transparent optical devices which alter the quality of light passing through them. Usually a specific part of light is blocked.

**FIXER:**

An acidic chemical which dissolves away the undeveloped silver halide crystals on film or photographic paper. The emulsion becomes stabilized.

**F-NUMBER:**

The resulting number when the focal length of a lens is divided by the diameter of the aperture. The sequence of numbers represent of various openings between the maximum and minimum settings. F-numbers are actually fractions, so the large numbers allow less light to pass.

**FOCAL LENGTH:**

The distance between the optical center of a lens and the focal plane when the lens is focused at infinity. The greater the focal length, the smaller the angle of view.

**FOCAL PLANE:**

The plane in the camera where the film's surface is positioned.

**FOCAL PLANE SHUTTER:**

A camera's shutter system consisting of sliding curtains. It is positioned slightly in front of the focal plane.

**F-STOP:**

The marking on the ring or dial that controls the diaphragm. It is an indication of the amount of light passing through the aperture. A small f-stop, such as f/16, admits little light.

**GELATIN:**

A transparent material which forms the film's emulsion. Silver halides are embedded in it.

**GRAIN:**

Clumps of developed silver halide on film or print paper.

**HYPO CHECK:**

A chemical test for fixer. A white chemical formation indicates that the fixer is exhausted and must be replaced.

**HYPO CLEARING AGENT:**

A chemical that rapidly removed hypo (fixer) from a photographic emulsion. It greatly reduced wash time for film and paper.

**INCIDENT LIGHT: (Ambient)**

The light falling on a subject or surface.

**INDICATOR STOP BATH:**

A stop bath that is specially colored yellow or orange. Exhausted stop bath turns blue to indicate the need for replacement.

**ISO:**

System of rating the emulsion speed of film, established by the International Standards Organization.

**LATENT IMAGE:**

The invisible image formed on photographic emulsions by the reaction of light upon silver crystals. Chemicals in the developer convert this image into a visible image.

**LENS:**

A transparent object that has at least one curved surface. Used to focus light on film.

**LIGHT METER:**

A device to measure light for a correct exposure. It can be either built into the camera or hand-held. It may be powered by a battery or chemical reaction.

**MAT BOARD:**

The material on which a print is mounted.

**MOUNTING PRESS:**

**NEGATIVE:**

Image in which dark tones are recorded light and light tones are dark. Complementary colors of the subject are recorded in a color negative.

**NEGATIVE CARRIER:**

A pair of metal plates with a “window” in them to hold a negative when it is in the enlarger.

**NORMAL LENS:**

A lens with a focal length approximately equal to the diagonal of the film format. The normal lens for a 35 mm camera is 50 mm.

**PAPER SAFE:**

A metal or plastic light-tight container that holds photographic paper. It can be opened only under a safelight to remove sheets for printing.

**PARALLAX:**

The difference in images seen by the camera’s viewing system and the lens. It is a problem only at close distances.

**PINHOLE CAMERA:**

A camera without a lens. Light passes through a tiny hole to form an image on film.

**POLARIZING FILTER:**

A transparent filter which allows light to pass in a single plane. Reflections are reduced and the sky darkens when the filter is rotated.

**PORTRAIT:**

A photograph of a person, usually a head and shoulders shot.

**POSITIVE IMAGE:**

Image in which the dark tones correspond to the dark tones in a subject and light tones correspond to light tones. A positive color image corresponds to the correct colors of the subject.

**PRINT:**

A positive image formed by projecting a negative onto photographic paper and processing the exposed paper in chemicals.

**PRINT PAPER:**

Photographic paper used to make a positive image from a negative.

**PRINTING:**

The process of transforming a negative into a positive image.

**PROCESSING:**

The series of steps necessary to convert a latent image on film into a visible image.

**RANGEFINDER CAMERA:**

A camera with an optical device for measuring distance. It is coupled to the lens for focusing.

**RAPID FIXER:**

Fixer that will complete fixing of a negative or print in reduced time.

**RC PAPER:**

Resin-coated paper. A print paper coated with plastic to prevent the base from absorbing chemicals and water during processing. It can be washed and dried rapidly.

**REFLECTOR:**

A sheet of white material used to reflect light into a shadowed area. Also the metallic cone behind a flashbulb or floodlight to throw maximum light.

**REFRACTION:**

The bending of a light ray passing from one medium to another. Air to glass is an example.

**RESOLUTION:**

The ability to distinguish between objects that are very close together.

**SAFELIGHT:**

A special darkroom light that does not affect certain photographic materials.

**SHUTTER:**

A mechanically or electronically controlled device that regulates the length of time light is allowed into the camera for film exposure.

**SILVER HALIDE CRYSTALS:**

Light-sensitive crystals found in photographic emulsions.

**SLIDE: (TRANSPARENCY)**

Section of film which, when processed, shows the finished picture when held up to light. It is a positive transparency. It can be projected in a slide projector.

**SLR CAMERA:**

Single Lens Reflex camera. The viewing system allows the user to see exactly what the lens sees.

**SPLIT IMAGE:**

A focusing method in both rangefinders and many SLR cameras. An out-of-focus image will appear divided. Correct focus results in an image which is aligned.

**SQUEEGEE:**

A rubber wiper, similar to a windshield wiper, for removing excess water from prints.

**STOP BATH:**

An acidic chemical that halts the developing process. It neutralizes the alkaline developer before fixing.

**STOPPING DOWN:**

Reducing the lens aperture.

**STUDIO:**

A workroom set up for specialized photography. It may contain lights, reflectors, and backgrounds.

**SUBJECT:**

The person or object of interest being photographed.

**TACKING IRON:**

A special lightweight iron used to attach tissue to a print and mounting board.

**TAKE-UP SPOOL:**

A second spool built into or placed in the camera to take up the exposed film.

**TELEPHOTO LENS:**

A lens that works like a telescope. A larger image results on the film.

**TLR CAMERA:**

Twin Lens Reflex camera. A camera which uses a secondary lens system for viewing. A mirror reflects the image from the viewing lens to a ground glass screen.

**TRANSPARENCY:**

A positive image that can be viewed when held up to a light or projected. Also called a slide.

**TRIPOD:**

A camera support with three legs.

**TTL METERING:**

Through The Lens metering. An exposure meter built into the camera which measures reflected light from the subject passing through the camera lens.

**UV FILTER:**

A filter blocking ultraviolet light. Also used to protect a lens from becoming scratched.

**VARIABLE CONTRAST FILTERS:**

Special filters that provide an entire range of contrast when used with variable contrast paper.

**VARIABLE CONTRAST PAPER:**

Photographic paper which provides a range of contrast while printing with the use of filters.

**VIEW CAMERA:**

A large format studio camera. The front and back of the camera are attached by a bellows. The screen is composed and focused on a ground glass screen before inserting the film.

**VIEWFINDER CAMERA:**

A camera with a window showing the approximate scene that will appear in the picture.

**WETTING AGENT:**

A chemical used after washing negatives. Surface tension is lowered, resulting in even drying without water spots.

**WIDE ANGLE LENS:**

A lens having a large angle of view and short focal length. It is good for scenes and groups of people.

**ZOOM LENS:**

A lens with many focal lengths. Focusing remains unchanged while altering the focal length.